

Copper River & Northwestern Railroad,
Gilahina Bridge
Mile 28.5 McCarthy Road
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
Alaska *↗ Valdez - Cordova County*

HAER No. AK-15

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDITIONAL
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Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Copper River & Northwestern Railroad, Gilahina Bridge
(Gilahina Trestle)

HAER No. AK-15

Location: Mile 28.5, McCarthy Road; Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve, Chitina vicinity, Valdez-Cordova County, Alaska

Date of Construction: February 1911

Builder/Designer: Pat O'Brien (Architect)

Present Use: Abandoned, deteriorated.

Significance: Part of the Copper River and Northwestern Railway route, this bridge illustrates the ingenuity and drive of the railroad builders. Built during the winter of 1911 in only eleven days, this 180 foot long, 90 foot high curved timber trestle was the last and most difficult wooden bridge built between Chitina and Kennecott, Alaska.

References: HABS/HAER Inventory, 1982: Gilhina (sic) Bridge
Jensen, Lone, The Copper Strike, Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1975

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ADDENDUM TO
COPPER RIVER AND NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD, GILAHINA BRIDGE
(GILAHINA TRESTLE)
(GILAHINA BRIDGE)
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
Mile 28.5, McCarthy Road
Chitina Vicinity
Valdez-Cordova County
Alaska

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